

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3525

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: NATO DECLARATION: CANADIAN VIEWS ON BRITISH TEXT

REF: STATE 104830

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSION ON MAY 22 ON AN ATLANTIC
DECLARATION, CANADIAN EXTAFF OFFICIALS SAID CANADA'S
GOAL IS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF AN ATLANTIC
DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY MINISTERS AT THE JUNE NATO
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OTTAWA. WHILE GOC IS PREPARED
TO SUPPORT ANY COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WILL ACHIEVE
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THIS GOAL, IT IS CONCERNED THAT USING UK TEXT AS

BASIS FOR DECLARATION WILL RUB THE FRENCH THE WRONG WAY AND ENDANGER ANY AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, THEY BELIEVE FOR TACTICAL REASONS, DRAFTING EXERCISE SHOULD START WITH FRENCH TEXT AND AMALGAMATE TWO DRAFTS INTO FINAL DOCUMENT.

END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED ATLANTIC DECLARATION WITH EXTAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEFENCE AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS (CAMERON) AND DIRECTOR DEFENCE RELATIONS (MARSHALL), POL COUNSELOR PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING BRITISH TEXT AS BEST BASIS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF ATLANTIC DECLARATION AS CONTAINED IN PARAS 1-3 REFTEL.

3. CANADIANS AGREE COMPLETELY WITH US THAT DOCUMENT SHOULD BE A "DECLARATION" RATHER THAN A COMMUNIQUE BUT WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE THAT UK TEXT IS SATISFACTORY, THEY QUESTION WHETHER PRAGMATICALLY IT IS PRUDENT TO CAST ASIDE FEBRUARY 26 "US-FRENCH DRAFT" AND START WITH A NEW PIECE OF PAPER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT (WHICH IS YET TO BE FORMED) COULD AGREE TO A REVISED FRENCH TEXT FOR DECLARATION THAN IT COULD TO WHAT OSTENSIBLY IS A NEW DRAFT.

B. ABANDONING FRENCH TEXT MIGHT RUB THE FRENCH THE WRONG WAY AND CAUSE SUFFICIENT IRRITATION TO FORECLOSE FRENCH AGREEMENT.

C. MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXTRACT MORE SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE FROM FRENCH BY BUILDING ON THEIR TEXT RATHER THAN ON STARTING WITH BRITISH TEXT.

D. WHILE THEY PREFER BRITISH LANGUAGE IN MANY RESPECTS (PARA ON CONSULTATION, SOME OF LANGUAGE ON SECURITY AND LAST PARA), BRITISH TEXT IS NOT ALL THAT HELPFUL. IN SOME PLACES, APPARENT THAT BRISISH DRAFTERS HAD NOT DONE THEIR HOMEWORK AND CHANGED LANGUAGE WHERE CONSENSUS HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED.

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E. IN PRACTICAL TERMS THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 2-1/2 WEEKS REMAINING TO REACH AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF DECLARATION BECAUSE OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS ON PERMREPS CALENDAR IN BRUSSELS -- IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE TIME-CONSUMING TO START WITH NEW DRAFT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN QUESTION ABOUT PROMULGATION,

POL COUNSELOR STATED US VIEW WAS THAT THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE POSTPONED PENDING AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF DECLARATION. (CANADIANS DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF DECLARATION WITH THE NINE.)

5. CANADIANS CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROMULGATION AND SAID EXTAFF WAS RECOMMENDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER SHARP THAT AMBASSADOR MENZIES BE AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE AT MAY 24 MEETING OF PERMREPS IN BRUSSELS THAT NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS SIGN "ATLANTIC DECLARATION" AT SPRING MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OTTAWA, JUNE 18-19.

A. THEY BELIEVE SIGNING OF DECLARATION WITH MAXIMUM PUBLICITY WOULD ADD SOME NEEDED PIZZAZZ TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO THE SPRING MINISTERIAL. IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN ERASING THE STRESSES AND STRAINS WHICH NATO HAS EXPERIENCED SINCE THE EXERCISE BEGAN FOLLOWING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR THE "YEAR OF EUROPE."

B. HOWEVER, THE CANADIANS SEE SOME OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF STAGING SUCH A CEREMONIAL SIGNING. FIRST, THERE MAY BE A QUESTION WHETHER ALL OF THE MINISTERS ATTENDING THE OTTAWA MEETING COULD BE GIVEN AUTHORITY BY THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO SIGN SUCH A DOCUMENT. (FOR EXAMPLE, DENMARK IS GOING TO BE REPRESENTED BY ITS DEFENCE MINISTER.) SECOND, AN AGREED TEXT WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED IN THE NEXT 2-1/2 WEEKS SO THAT DOCUEMNTS COULD BE PREPARED FOR SIGNATURE -- IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO HAGGLE OVER LANGUAGE OF A DECLARATION IN THE WAY THEY MIGHT DO OVER A COMMUNIQUE.

6. HOW TO PROCEED? CANADIAN GOAL IS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN ATLANTIC DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY ALL MINISTERS
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ATTENDING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OTTAWA. TO REACH THIS GOAL, CANADIANS ARE CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION:

A. AMBASSADOR MENZIES WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE AT THE MAY 24 MEETING IN BRUSSELS THAT THE PERMREPS PROCEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A TEXT BY STARTING WITH THE "US-FRENCH TEXT" AND PUTTING IT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE BRITISH TEXT. MENZIES WILL HAVE GOC PREFERENCE PARA BY PARA BETWEEN THE TWO TEXTS (AND IN SOME CASES PREFERRED PHRASES). CANADIANS WILL PROPOSE THAT CONSIDERATION BE LIMITED TO PICKING AND CHOOSING BETWEEN THE TWO EXISTING DRAFTS AND NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW LANGUAGE. (HOWEVER, CANADIANS DO NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO UK TEXT AND IF OTHERS AGREE, THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITHOUT HESITATION -- THEY JUST DO NOT BELIEVE THIS

IS LIKELY.)

B. SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER
SHARP, MENZIES WILL ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE
CONSIDERATION OF ACEREMONIAL SIGNING OF DECLARATION
BY MINISTERS IN OTTAWA AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS
IS FEASIBLE.
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